NORTH CAROLINA
Farm Report
COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED 1950 TOBACCO PRODUCTION?
2. SUMMARIZE SEPTEMBER 1 GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS.
3. COMPARE PROSPECTIVE PEANUT PRODUCTION WITH LAST YEAR.
4. DISCUSS PRESENT TRENDS IN THE BROILER INDUSTRY.
5. DID COTTON PROSPECTS IMPROVE DURING AUGUST?
6. ACCORDING TO PRESENT ESTIMATES, HOW MANY BUSHELS OF CORN WILL BE PRODUCED IN NORTH CAROLINA THIS YEAR?
7. WERE AUGUST WEATHER CONDITIONS FAVORABLE TO CROP PRODUCTION?
8. REVIEW TABLE ON PAGE 3.
9. WILL THE 1950 SOYBEAN CROP BE LARGER THAN LAST YEAR'S CROP?

No. 69 RALEIGH, N. C. SEPTEMBER 15, 1950

SEPTEMBER 1, 1950 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL CROP SITUATION FAVORABLE

As of September 1 agricultural conditions in the State as a whole were generally favorable. August rainfall was below normal in most areas, especially the Piedmont section. However, early September rains have amply replenished moisture supplies in all except local areas.

Except for cotton, crop prospects made good improvement over the outlook a month earlier. An all-time record corn crop of 78.5 million bushels appears more certain. Total flue-cured tobacco production promises to be the fifth largest crop of record. Record crops of soybeans and alfalfa hay are also indicated. Hay production will be less than last year, but above average. Peanut production is expected to be about 22 percent below average, due to a smaller acreage as well as lower yield per acre. Commercial apple production will be more than double last year's crop and the largest since 1946 on the basis of September 1 indications. Pastures continued to offer above average grazing for this season. The only dark spots in the agricultural picture for North Carolina this year are the prospects for the smallest cotton crop since 1875, and the smallest peach crop since 1943.

PEANUT PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

September 1 reports from peanut producers continued to point to a crop of 247,520,000 pounds, the same as last month. Such a production is about 2 percent above production last year, but 22 percent below average. August rainfall in the Northeastern commercial peanut counties was generally normal or above. However, stands are below normal and growers have had some difficulty in controlling grass in peanut fields.

The U. S. sweetpotato crop of 59.8 million bushels will be about 10 percent larger than last year's crop. Yield per acre is near record.

FAVORABLE AUGUST WEATHER IMPROVES FLUE-CURED PROSPECTS

According to reports from growers of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina as of September 1, considerable improvement in production prospects for tobacco occurred during August. Almost all the increase in production prospects came about in the type 12 (Eastern Belt) producing area. A slight increase in production also developed for type 13 (Border Belt) tobacco. Improvement in tobacco prospects in these two belts is attributed to unusually favorable August weather which resulted in good growth and maturity of late plantings and fourth primings through tips of early plantings.

As of September 1 total production of flue-cured tobacco is forecast at 787,920,000 pounds - an increase of 2.6 percent from the August 1 estimate and 7.7 percent above the 731,530,000 pounds produced in 1949. Higher yields were indicated for both type 12 and type 13 on September 1 than a month earlier with no change indicated for type 11. Improved

(Continued on Page 4)

DROP IN MILK PRODUCTION CONTINUES

Milk production on North Carolina farms has been steadily declining since reaching the May-June peak. Total production during August is estimated at 153 million pounds compared with 156 in July, 159 in June and 158 million in May this year. August production a year ago was 151 million pounds - 2 million below August 1950.

The number of cows on farms (includes both dry and milked) during August averaged 375,000 head. This was up slightly from the 374,000 head on farms in July. This increase was due largly to additions of heifers to herds brought about by increased emphasis on late summer and fall freshening in order to counteract the usual seasonal decline in milk production.

Pasture condition declined 4 points from August 1 and as of September 1 was indicated at 88 percent normal. Most of the decline in condition occurred in Piedmont and Coastal Counties, particularly in the latter area where soil

(Continued on Page 4)

STATISTICIANS VISIT CROP REPORTER

Mr. H. S. Britt, Regular Crop Reporter from Wake County discusses his Crop Report with Representatives of Crop Reporting Service - Mr. Britt has been a regular reporter for 30 years.

HAY CROP DOWN 7 PERCENT FROM 1949

The estimated production of all hays in North Carolina as of September 1 totalled 1,299,000 tons, showing no change from a month earlier in prospects for the crop. The prospective production, however, is 7 percent below the 1,395,000 tons produced last year.

Dry weather in the Piedmont areas during the first three weeks of August retarded growth of the alfalfa crop and reduced the expected yield to 2.4 tons per acre. The total production for the state, however, is still expected to reach a record 144,000 tons this year. Generally the fourth cutting of alfalfa has now been made.

Clover and timothy hay prospects improved during the month. Weather conditions in the western counties of the state were generally favorable to growth, though some difficulty was experienced in harvesting the crop due to frequent showers. Total production of the crop is now expected to reach 112,000 tons, an average of 1.30 tons per acre.

Lespedeza hay prospects remain unchanged from estimates of a month earlier. This means an average yield of 1.10 tons per acre and a total production of 531,000 tons.

GRAIN SORGHUM CROP UP 19%

September 1 conditions indicate a grain sorghum crop 19 percent larger than the 1949 production. The 1950 crop is now estimated at 624,000 bushels compared with 525,000 bushels last year.

Grain sorghum acreage for harvest is currently estimated at 24,000 acres compared with 21,000 acres in 1949. The expected yield per acre at 26 bushels is 1 bushel higher than the 1949 yield.

SOYBEANS IMPROVE

The condition of North Carolina's soybean crop improved slightly during the past month, adding to the already record-high production in prospect. Production from the crop is expected to total 4,290,000 bushels--meaning an average of 15.0 bushels per acre from 286,000 acres to be harvested for beans. Acreage for harvest is also at a record level this year. In 1949, a production of 3,960,000 was obtained from 264,000 acres--also, a yield of 15.0 bushels per acre.

National production is now estimated at 274,702,000 bushels, an average yield of 21.2 bushels per acre from 12,937,000 acres. This is 24 percent above production in 1949.

AUGUST EGG PRODUCTION HIGH

During August, farm flocks in North Carolina produced 76,000,000 eggs, an increase of 8.6 percent over production during the same month last year.

The rate of lay at 1,141 eggs per 100 layers was up 6 percent from a year ago, and the estimated 6,642,000 layers in farm flocks was an increase of 170,000 over August, 1949.

RECORD YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CORN STILL INDICATED

The 1950 corn crop in North Carolina is estimated at 78,516,000 bushels as of September 1. This is the same as the estimate made on August 1.

The prospective 1950 crop would be the largest of record and exceeds the record crop of 1949 by almost 3 million bushels. The estimated 1950 crop is 41.8 percent more than the 10-year average production of 55,385,000 bushels.

The September 1 estimated yield per acre of 36.0 bushels would also be the highest of record. The 1949 average yield per acre was 35.0 bushels and the 1939-48 average yield is 24.2 bushels per acre.

The 1950 U. S. corn crop is estimated at 3,162,638 bushels which is 6 percent less than 1949 production but 9 percent more than the 10-year (1939-48) average production of 2,900,932,000 bushels. The 1950 U. S. average yield per acre is estimated at 38.1 bushels as compared to the average yield of 32.9 bushels per acre.

COTTON PROSPECTS DECLINE SHARPLY

On the basis of reports received from cotton growers throughout the State prospective production from North Carolina's 1950 cotton crop declined sharply during August. As of September 1, production is estimated at 200,000 bales (500 lbs. gross weight). This is a drop of 30,000 bales from prospects on August 1. If materialized, such a crop would be the smallest produced by Tar Heel growers since 1875. The estimated 200,000 bales this year compares with 466,000 bales harvested last year and the 10-year average production of 578,000 bales.

Average lint yield per acre from the 1950 crop is now estimated at 173 pounds -- 86 pounds below the average last year, 200 pounds below the 10-year average and the smallest yield since 1892.

As of September 1, the acreage for harvest is estimated at 556,000 acres, compared with 860,000 acres harvested last year and the 10-year average of 738,000 acres.

As cotton began to open in southern counties, it became apparent that loss to the boll weevil was greater than expected. Boll worms also have been very destructive in many areas. Field examinations show that a high percentage of the bolls now on plants have been punctured by the boll weevil and will not produce.

September 1 conditions point to a crop of 9,882,000 bales for the Nation as a whole. This compares with 10,308,000 bales forecast on August 1 and 16,128,000 bales produced in 1949.

COTTON: CONDITION, ESTIMATED ACREAGE FOR HARVEST AND PRODUCTION, SEPTEMBER 1, 1950, ALL STATES

STATE	Area in Cultivation July 1, 1950 Less 10-Year Average Abandonment	September 1 Condition			Lint Yield Per Harvested Acre			Production (Ginnings) 500-Lb. Gross Wt. Bales		
		Average 1939-1948	1949	1950	Average 1939-1948	1949	Indicated 1950	Average 1939-1948	1949 Crop	1950 Crop Indicated Sept. 1
	Thousand Acres	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Thous. Bales	Thous. Bales	Thous. Bales
N. Carolina ..	556	79	67	46	373	259	173	578	466	200
Missouri.....	428	78	86	74	442	378	336	373	462	300
Virginia.....	25	-	-	-	378	305	173	23	20	9
S. Carolina...	863	73	57	61	321	209	256	738	554	460
Georgia.....	1,151	70	59	66	243	181	225	769	604	540
Florida.....	33	-	-	-	162	153	160	13	16	11
Tennessee.....	640	77	76	68	378	365	360	541	633	480
Alabama.....	1,303	72	59	57	272	226	206	912	852	560
Mississippi...	2,043	72	57	69	330	261	334	1,653	1,487	1,420
Arkansas.....	1,664	74	68	70	344	309	317	1,393	1,632	1,100
Louisiana.....	749	66	66	59	269	298	224	536	650	350
Oklahoma.....	967	66	75	48	164	225	99	502	610	200
Texas.....	6,912	70	88	70	170	266	193	2,729	6,040	2,775
New Mexico....	185	87	89	86	498	428	480	133	276	185
Arizona.....	288	87	97	97	433	649	678	188	543	407
California....	609	92	93	97	600	634	690	501	1,268	875
Other States..	13	-	-	-	418	363	345	16	15	10
United States.	18,429	73	74	68	261.3	284.0	257.4	11,599	16,128	9,882

RECORD HIGH SWEETPOTATO YIELD

The condition of North Carolina sweetpotato crop as of September 1 indicated a yield of 120 bushels per acre, the highest of record. This yield, however, was equaled in 1946.

Growing conditions during August were generally favorable for the maturing crops, causing production estimates to increase slightly over the August 1 forecast. At present the crop is expected to produce 6,480,000 bushels. This is about 10 percent above last year but 12 percent below the 10-year average. The acreage for harvest in the State this year is currently estimated at 54,000, comparing with 52,000 last year and the 10-year average of 70,000 acres.

For the Nation, a crop of 59,884,000 bushels is in prospect which is about 10 percent above production in 1949.

BROILER PRODUCTION HIGH

Operations continued at a high level in the Chatham-Wilkes Commercial Broiler Areas during August. August placements of 1,841,000 chicks were a record high for the month, exceeding placements during the same month a year ago by 726,000 chicks or 65 percent.

The number of eggs set during the month by commercial hatcheries supplying the areas totalled 1,849,000, compared with settings of 1,287,000 eggs during the same month a year ago.

Hatchings of 1,359,000 chicks also set an August record.

More favorable prices and stronger demand for finished broilers since the beginning of the Korean War are largely responsible for high level operations in broiler industry during this season of the year when output is usually relatively low.

LARGE COMMERCIAL APPLE CROP ESTIMATED

Commercial apple production in North Carolina is estimated at 1,184,000 bushels, based on reports from growers as of September 1. This is an increase of nearly 14 percent over indications on August 1. Such a crop would be 164 percent larger than the short 1949 crop and 21 percent greater than average. The U. S. apple crop at 219,053,000 bushels is 11 percent below 1949 but 9 percent above average.

September 1 reports from pecan producers indicate a total crop of 2,112,000 pounds, a slight improvement over last month's prospects, but still about 28 percent below the harvest in 1949.

A grape crop of 5,500 tons continues in prospect. Such a crop would be 22 percent greater than the 1949 crop and nearly 5 percent more than average.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES, ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS 1949 AND INDICATED SEPTEMBER 1, 1950

CROPS	ACREAGE			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	AVERAGE 1939-48 #	HARVESTED 1949	INDICATED 1950	AVERAGE 1939-48	1949	INDICATED 1950	AVERAGE 1939-48	REVISED 1949	INDICATED 1950
		- THOUSAND -						- THOUSAND -	
NORTH CAROLINA									
CORN, ALL ..... BU.	2,298	2,159	2,181	24.2	35.0	36.0	55,385	75,565	78,516
WHEAT, ALL ..... BU.	450	445	423	15.1	13.0	14.5	6,809	5,785	6,134
OATS ..... BU.	308	370	388	27.0	30.0	30.0	8,417	11,100	11,640
BARLEY ..... BU.	34	36	37	24.1	25.0	25.0	822	900	925
RYE ..... BU.	36	19	20	11.0	10.5	11.0	389	200	220
SORGHUMS, FOR GRAIN ..... BU.	-	21	24	-	25.0	26.0	-	525	624
TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED ..... LBS.	653.3	621.0	631.0	1,066	1,178	1,249	696,707	731,530	787,920
TYPE 11 ..... LBS.	254.4	240.0	247.0	994	1,070	1,200	254,833	256,800	296,400
TYPE 12 ..... LBS.	322.7	304.0	307.0	1,110	1,245	1,280	358,674	378,480	392,960
TYPE 13 ..... LBS.	76.2	77.0	77.0	1,088	1,250	1,280	83,200	96,250	98,560
TYPE 31 ..... LBS.	9.1	10.8	10.0	1,318	1,440	1,590	12,307	15,552	15,900
COTTON ..... LBS.	738	860	564	373	259	173	578	466	200
IRISH POTATOES, ALL ..... BU.	82	61	60	114	129	154	9,302	7,869	9,240
SWEET POTATOES ..... BU.	70	52	54	107	113	120	7,403	5,876	6,480
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS ..... BU.	222	264	286	12.0	15.0	15.0	2,675	3,960	4,290
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESHED. LBS.	280	236	238	1,138	1,030	1,040	315,847	243,080	247,520
HAY, ALL ..... TONS	1,229	1,205	1,181	.99	1.16	1.10	1,219	1,395	1,299
CLOVER & TIMOTHY ..... TONS	77	95	86	1.14	1.25	1.30	88	119	112
ALFALFA HAY ..... TONS	14	51	60	2.08	2.50	2.40	31	128	144
LESPEDEZA HAY ..... TONS	460	498	483	1.08	1.20	1.10	499	598	531
PASTURE, CONDITION ..... %	-	-	-	84	94	88	-	-	-
PEACHES, ALL ..... BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,167	1,428	548
APPLES, COMMERCIAL ..... BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	982	448	1,184
PEARS ..... BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	280	130	128
GRAPES ..... TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.25	4.5	5.5
PECANS, ALL ..... LBS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,483	2,924	2,112
UNITED STATES									
CORN, ALL ..... BU.	88,007	86,735	83,091	32.9	38.9	38.1	2,900,932	3,377,790	3,162,638
WHEAT, ALL ..... BU.	60,236	76,751	60,513	17.0	14.9	16.7	1,013,312	1,146,463	1,011,644
OATS ..... BU.	38,762	40,560	42,765	32.8	32.6	34.7	1,274,474	1,322,924	1,481,864
BARLEY ..... BU.	12,858	9,879	11,233	24.2	24.1	26.5	310,668	238,104	297,922
RYE ..... BU.	2,674	1,558	1,852	12.0	12.0	12.2	32,155	18,697	22,509
SORGHUMS, FOR GRAIN ..... BU.	6,552	6,612	8,370	16.4	23.1	22.1	108,836	152,630	184,641
TOBACCO, ALL ..... LBS.	1,649.6	1,630.3	1,595.8	1,073	1,209	1,222	1,777,945	1,970,376	1,950,725
TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED ..... LBS.	969.4	935.4	954.4	1,048	1,191	1,225	1,020,200	1,114,508	1,169,215
COTTON* ..... LBS.	21,282	27,230	18,429	261.3	284.0	257.4	11,599	16,128	9,882
IRISH POTATOES ..... BU.	2,654.2	1,901.3	1,826.5	154.6	211.4	230.1	403,284	401,962	420,286
SWEET POTATOES ..... BU.	683.3	541.9	584.1	90.8	100.1	102.5	61,786	54,232	59,884
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS ..... BU.	8,764	9,912	12,937	18.8	22.4	21.2	164,491	222,305	274,702
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESHED. LBS.	2,880	2,332	2,115	687	804	783	1,950,690	1,875,825	1,655,895
HAY, ALL ..... TONS	74,470	72,835	75,686	1.35	1.36	1.41	100,344	99,305	106,818
ALFALFA ..... TONS	14,896	17,288	18,254	2.20	2.23	2.26	32,775	38,546	41,285
CLOVER & TIMOTHY ..... TONS	21,842	19,274	21,098	1.36	1.28	1.39	29,864	24,657	29,395
LESPEDEZA ..... TONS	6,123	7,010	7,026	1.06	1.22	1.12	6,485	8,571	7,836
PASTURE, CONDITION ..... %	-	-	-	76	79	85	-	-	-
PEACHES ..... BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	70,090	74,818	51,990
APPLES, COMMERCIAL ..... BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	109,408	133,742	119,053
PEARS ..... BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,295	36,404	29,964
GRAPES ..... TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,776.9	2,662.1	2,538.4
PECANS, ALL ..... LBS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	120,955	128,174	106,438

\# *Includes Government purchases from unharvested acres in 1948.*
* *500 lb. gross wt. bales.*

FARM REPORT

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1950 CATTLE SLAUGHTER UP

Commercial slaughter of cattle, sheep and lambs in North Carolina during July showed an increase over the previous month. Hog slaughter was down slightly, both in numbers and total liveweight slaughtered. Calf slaughter continued to decline, dropping 6 percent below June slaughter and 17 percent below the number slaughtered in July of last year.

During the first seven months of 1950, total liveweight of all species slaughtered was up 6 percent over the same period last year. Cattle and hogs accounted for the increase - calf, sheep and lamb slaughter showing a decline from the previous year.

FLUE-CURED PROSPECTS IMPROVE *(Continued)*

yields for type 12 accounted for 92 percent of the 20 million pound increase over the August 1 flue-cured estimate.

As of September 1 North Carolina's burley crop showed a slight decline in yield prospects. The yield for this crop is currently indicated at 1,590 pounds giving a prospective production of 15,900,000 pounds from the 10,000 acres for harvest this season.

Flue-cured tobacco production for the Nation is estimated at 1,169,215,000 pounds as of September 1. This is an increase of 4.9 percent from production in 1949.

MILK PRODUCTION *(Continued)*

moisture during the last 10 days of August was below requirements. Condition of pastures in Mountain counties continued good.

NORTH CAROLINA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER *

TYPE	JULY				JANUARY-JULY TOTAL			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1949 a/	1950	1949 a/	1950	1949 a/	1950	1949 a/	1950
	THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.		THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.	
CATTLE.....	6.0	7.0	5,008	5,697	43.1	45.1	35,105	37,050
CALVES.....	5.4	4.5	888	801	48.2	34.8	7,830	5,674
SHEEP & LAMBS....	.5	.5	36	42	1.5	1.3	128	109
HOGS.....	22.0	27.0	5,111	6,186	183.0	209.0	41,024	45,400

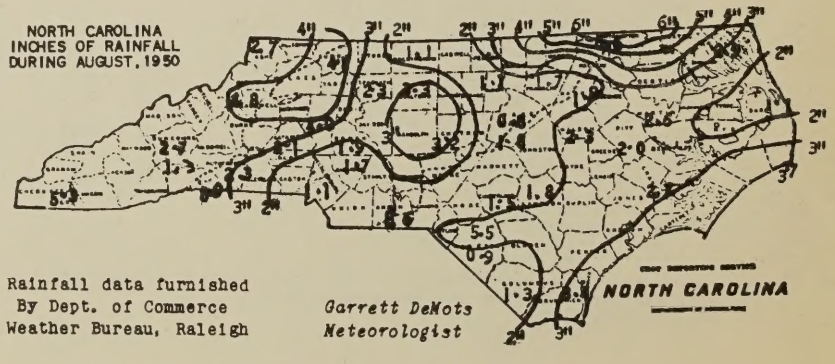
** Includes slaughter under Federal Inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter. a/ Revised.*

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR AUGUST, 1950

The trend toward decreasing shower activity that got underway in the latter part of July continued during much of August. Thus, rainfall totals for August were well below normal. Rainfall deficiences of from 3 to 4 inches were reported in the greater part of the State. In the city of Charlotte this was the third driest August in 72 years of record. Scattered thundershowers produced sharp rainfall differences as well as hail in a few local areas.

For the State in general, temperatures averaged near normal this month. Particularly noticeable was the absence of any prolonged periods of hot weather. Highest temperatures in the middle 90's were common during the first few days following which readings in the 90's were rare until the final three or four days of the month.

The first hurricane of this season moved steadily northward toward the North Carolina Capes section for several hours finally passing rather quietly about 70 miles to the east of Hatteras early on the 20th.



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

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